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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector to the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

1942.

H. W. FREESTONE, PRINTER, BUCKINGHAM.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUCKINGHAM.

December, 1943.

To the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting, as your Medical Officer of Health, an Annual Report, I must apologise for any inadequacy of information, as I took over duty on the 1st April, 1943, on the death of Dr. Pearson. With, however, the assistance of Mr. Jennings, to whom my appreciation and thanks are due, I have pleasure in laying before you a report for the year 1942.

As in the year 1941, the incidence of Infectious Disease was low. There was a slight increase in Pneumonia, but, as would be expected following an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough the previous year, a few cases occurred in 1942. There were two cases of diphtheria.

Owing to the energies of Dr. Finch and Nurse Rawlings, over 90% of the children in the area were immunised against diphtheria, this being a satisfactory result.

Evacuation does not present any great difficulty. There are still many billetted children in the district who receive education in local and London County Council Schools. The sick bay at Winslow is available for unbilletable cases.

While housing conditions, and particularly sanitation would seem to have much to be desired, and the war has now rendered progress in this direction difficult, the general health in the area appears to be very satisfactory.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. RONALDSON,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Edin. Univ.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (exclusive of area covered by water) ...	54,543 acres
Population (1940)	8447
,, (1941)	9592
,, (1942)	9075
Number of inhabited houses 1942	2517
Rateable Value	£35,343
Product of a 1d. Rate	£148 2s. 10d.

The inhabitants of the district are engaged chiefly in agricultural pursuits. There is a brickyard at Calvert. The general health of the inhabitants of the District is good.

Vital Statistics.

Birth-rate: 19.36 per 1000 population.
Death-rate: 10.24 per 1000 population.
Infantile Death-rate: .551 per 1000 population.

Live Births:	M	F.	Still Births:	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	72	63	Legitimate ...	2	1
Illegitimate ...	6	2	Illegitimate ...	0	0
	78	65		2	1

	M.	F.		M.	F.
Deaths ...	47	46	Deaths under 1 year ...	2	3
	93			5	

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified (Civilians only):

Enteric Fever ...	1	Scarlet Fever ...	13
Whooping Cough...	4	Diphtheria	2
Erysipelas ...	2	Smallpox	0
Measles	11	Pneumonia	16

Puerperal Pyrexia ... 0

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) *Medical.*—One full-time Medical Officer of Health.

(b) *Others.*—One whole-time Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor and Inspector under the Meat Regulations. He holds the certificate of an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and an Associate Member of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers.

Nursing in the Home.

All the villages are covered by district nurses, whether residential or supplied by the Bucks County Nursing Association. The resident nurses are helped by a grant from the County Council and the Local Authorities, kept up by local subscriptions and fees and managed by a local Committee.

District nurses are stationed at Lillingstone Dayrell, Padbury, Tingewick, Steeple Claydon, Twyford and Westbury

Midwives.—All the district nurses do midwifery work and charge fees which go to the local Committee as the nurses are paid a fixed salary. There are five nurses with the C.M.B. Certificate doing district work.

Health Visiting is done by the district nurses. There is no provision in the district for home nursing.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are no Maternity or Child Welfare Centres in the district. District nurses treat school children for minor ailments, and ante-natal treatment is carried on by the local doctors. Mothers can attend the Welfare Centre at Buckingham if they like.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Clinics.—There are no Clinics in the district. Venereal cases can obtain gratuitous treatment at Oxford, Northampton and Aylesbury Hospitals. The County Tuberculosis Medical Officer attends at Buckingham once a month to see patients from the district. He also visits cases at their homes when necessary.

There is an *Orthopædic Clinic* held at Buckingham monthly under the direction of Mr. Girdlestone, to which children from the Rural District can attend.

Hospital and Ambulance Facilities.

1. *Tuberculosis.* — A Sanatorium for Buckinghamshire is situated at Peppard in Oxon, and is the Joint Sanitorium for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, and which is financed by the Bucks County Council jointly with the Berks County Council.

2. *Maternity.*—There is no Maternity Hospital. Abnormal cases are admitted to Hospitals at Oxford and Buckingham at the discretion of the doctors. An obstetrical consultant can be obtained by applying to the County Medical Officer.

3. *Infectious Diseases.*—The Rural District has no Infectious Disease Hospital. All cases of notifiable infectious diseases are sent to the County Council's fever hospital at Linslade, Leighton Buzzard. There are also other houses opened for minor cases for evacuees.

4. *Ophthalmic Treatment.*—Patients requiring special treatment of all eye diseases are admitted to the Eye Hospital in Oxford.

5. *General Treatment.*—There are no Hospitals or Nursing Homes situated within the Rural District. Patients are admitted to the following hospitals :—

Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.
Northampton General Hospital.
Buckingham Hospital.

6. *Institutions.*—There is no institutional provision in the Rural District for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

7. *Ambulances.*—A motor ambulance is stationed in Buckingham Town under the control of the St. John Ambulance Association and is available for the district for non-infectious diseases and accident cases. All cases of infectious disease are conveyed to Linslade by the Hospital's own fever ambulance.

Laboratory Facilities.

There are no arrangements in the district for pathological or bacteriological examinations, but tubercular sputa are sent to the County Health Office at Aylesbury and examined by the County Tuberculosis Medical Offier. Suspected diphtheria swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Association and Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service by the Medical Practitioners attending the cases. Examination of swabs and diphtheria anti-toxin are paid for by this Council. Diphtheria immunisation is offered to all school children by the Medical Officer of Health. No application has been received for anti-influenza vaccine. There has been no need at present for measle serum and no requests have been made for same.

A.R.P.

We have First Aid Points in most villages manned by trained personnel and at the present time all A.R.P. work is under the direction of the A.R.P. Organiser, Mr. Slack.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Administration.

Water.

All Parishes are provided wholly or partly with a piped supply of water. These supplies are maintained by the staff of the Bucks Water Board.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Three Parishes only have Sewage Disposal Schemes. Plans had been prepared for eight others, but these have had to be abandoned owing to the outbreak of war. In many villages the present drainage system and sewerage system leaves much to be desired.

Rivers and Streams.

Your Inspector does what he can to remedy nuisances as they arise, but many of the water courses are grossly polluted and until proper and efficient sewage disposal works are provided this pollution cannot be prevented.

Closet Accommodation.

There is a slow but steady increase in the number of water closets and the old insanitary privies are gradually disappearing.

Public Cleansing.

Bi-monthly collections of household refuse are made and a certain amount of salvage work is carried out *vide* the Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector of the Area.

The Inspector's Report appended with this Report will show the thoroughness with which this part of his work is carried out.

Shops Act.

No action has been taken under this Act.

Swimming Pools and Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in this district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Premises have been dealt with on three occasions.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary Condition.—Periodically examined for cleanliness and sanitary condition.

Water Supply.—Wells and public supplies.

Provision of Milk, etc.—Cheap Milk Schemes operating.

Housing, 1942.

No Houses erected during year.

Unfit Dwelling Houses Inspected.—Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects ... 206.

Annual Report of Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector to Buckingham Rural District Council

For the Year ending 31st December, 1942.

BUCKINGHAM,

December, 1943.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to submit a brief report of the work carried out by my Department during the year ended the 31st December, 1942.

General Summary of Inspections, etc., during the Year 1942.

Total number of Inspections made	1332
Premises inspected on complaint	206
Dwelling-houses inspected under periodical review ..	Nil
Visits *re* Water Supply	63
,, Drainage	185
,, Factories	12
,, Common Lodging Houses	Nil
,, Bakehouses	1
,, Refuse Collection and Disposal	63
Premises inspected *re* Overcrowding	1
Verminous places visited	3
Miscellaneous housing visits	185
Visits paid to work in progress	33
Inquiries *re* Infectious Diseases	4
Visits *re* Disinfections	4
,, Cowsheds	56
,, Dairies and Milkshops	4

Notices Served :

(1) Informal Notices	7
(2) Matters remedied as a result of (1)	7
(3) Statutory Notices served	1
(4) Reported to Council	3

Details of Nuisances abated :

Overcrowding	1
Accumulation of Refuse	1
Foul Ditches, Ponds, etc.	2
Miscellaneous	334
New Septic Tanks constructed	Nil
Inspections carried out in connection with drainage and sewerage work	185

Miscellaneous Inspections:

Miscellaneous Emergency Visits	72
Salvage	95
Evacuation	34
Fuel and Lighting	10
Inspections Surplus Sites	11
Civilian War Deaths	1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	32

Water Supply:

Samples obtained for analysis	2

Bakehouses:

On Register	11
Underground Bakehouses	Nil

Cowsheds:

Producers on Register	317
Inspections	60
Contraventions of Regulations	1
Contraventions remedied	1

Unsound Food:

Miscellaneous Food Visits	17

MEAT.—No records as all animals are now slaughtered in the Government Slaughter-house in Buckingham Borough.

Disinfections:

Rooms disinfected:

(a)	After ordinary infectious diseases ...	4
(b)	After Tuberculosis	0
(c)	Rooms stripped and cleansed	0

House Refuse:

Parishes in which household refuse is removed by Public Scavenger.—All Parishes with the exception of Luffield Abbey and Biddlesden.

Frequency of collections—Bi-monthly.

Method of final disposal—Controlled tipping.

Is refuse sorted for Salvage purposes?—Yes.

The Salvage sold during year 1942 amounted to approximately **126 tons, 14 cwts.**, and realised the sum of **£512 4s. 3d.**

I desire to thank the Council, Medical Officer of Health, and all other officials for their kindness, courtesy and support in the performance of my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. T. JENNINGS,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.